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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

- Please delete claims 5, 6, 17, and 18.
- Please amend pending claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 as indicated below. A complete listing of all claims and their status in the application is as follows:

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1. (currently amended) A method for processing microdevices comprising:
providing a computer system having processing information related to the microdevices as a task;
providing a legacy processing system;
providing a non-legacy processing system;
providing the task from the computer system to the legacy processing system with constant interaction therebetween;
providing the task from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system for performing the task by the non legacy processing system independent of the computer system;
developing return non-legacy information resulting from the non-legacy processing system using the task; and
returning the return non-legacy information to the computer system;
providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;
providing processing system process-specific parameters;
providing the processing system setup parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;
providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the non-legacy processing system simultaneously with the processing system setup parameters;
providing the number of processed microdevices to be output from the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;
providing processing system process-specific parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;
controlling the handling of the microdevices;
processing the microdevices;

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providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the legacy processing system;

providing a number of microdevices;

determining the number of microdevices processed;

determining the number of microdevices handled; and

developing statistics from the number of microdevices processed and handled.

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

D2 providing a microdevice programming system in the legacy processing system, the legacy processing system having an on-line connection with said computer system; and

programming the microdevices in the microdevice programming system using the task provided through the on-line connection from the computer system to the processing system.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

providing an operator mode;

providing a microdevice programming system in the non-legacy processing system, the microdevice programming system standing alone from the computer system;

using the processing information for the task in the operator mode in the non-legacy processing system independent from the computer system;

returning return information in the operator mode from the non-legacy processing system using portable medium to the computer system; and

storing the return information in the computer system.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

providing an administrator mode;

providing programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

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editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the microdevices for the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system as the task in the administrator mode.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 5 ~~including the steps of~~

D2 1 additionally comprising:

serializing the microdevices; and

maintaining a log of the serialized microdevices.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and

performing the processing of a kit in the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:

providing microdevice information;

providing processing system setup parameters;

providing format information related to the non-legacy processing system;

inputting the number of processed microdevices to be output from the non-legacy processing system;

providing the processing system setup parameters and format to the non-legacy processing system;

transferring the microdevice information from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system;

transferring the processing system format from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system;

processing the microdevices;

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obtaining information from the processing of the microdevices; and
transferring the information from the processing of the microdevices to the computer system.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

11. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a direct communication connection.

12. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of
providing an administrator mode; and
protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator mode.

13. (currently amended) A method for processing and programming
programmable microdevices comprising:

providing a computer system having processing information and programming
information related to the programmable microdevices combined as a task in
the computer system;

providing a legacy processing system;

providing a programmer/feeder system;

providing the task from the computer system to the programmer/feeder system;

performing the task by the programmer/feeder system independent of the computer
system by processing and programming the programmable microdevices;

developing return programmer/feeder information resulting from the
programmer/feeder system using the processing information; and

returning the return programmer/feeder information to the computer system;

providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;

providing processing system process-specific parameters;

providing the processing system setup parameters to the legacy processing system and
the programmer/feeder system;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the programmer/feeder
system simultaneously with the processing system parameters;

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providing the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;
providing the processing system process-specific parameters to legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;
controlling the handling of the programmable microdevices;
programming the programmable microdevices;
providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the legacy processing system;
providing a number of programmable microdevices;
determining the number of programmable microdevices processed;
determining the number of programmable microdevices handled; and
developing statistics from the number of programmable microdevices processed and handled.

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

providing a microdevice programming system in the programmer/feeder system, the programmer/feeder system having an on-line connection with said computer system; and

performing the task by the programmer/feeder dependent on the computer system using programming information obtained through the on-line connection.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

providing an operator mode;

using portable memory medium to provide the task in the operator mode to the programmer/feeder system independent from the computer system;

returning return programmer/feeder information in the operator mode using the portable memory medium to the computer system; and

storing the return programmer/feeder information in the computer system.

16. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 comprising:
providing an administrator mode;

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providing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the programmable microdevices for the legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system in the administrator mode.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

D2 19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~17~~ including the steps of 13 additionally comprising:

serializing the programmable microdevices; and

maintaining a log of the serialized programmable microdevices.

20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and

performing the programming of a kit in the legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder.

21. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising:

providing programmable microdevice information;

providing programmer/feeder system setup parameters;

providing format information related to the programmer/feeder system;

inputting the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from the programmer/feeder system;

providing the programmer/feeder system setup parameters and format to the programmer/feeder system;

transferring the programmable microdevice information from the computer system to the processing system;

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transferring the programmer/feeder system form from the computer system to the programmer/feeder system;

processing the programmable microdevices;

obtaining information from the processing of the programmable microdevices; and

transferring the information from the programming of the programmable microdevices.

D2 22. (original) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

23. (original) The method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a local area network connection.

24. (original) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of: providing an administrator mode; and protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator mode.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the step of:

providing information for affecting changes selected from a group consisting of software, firmware, and a combination thereof by using a portable memory medium.
